

Concordia University
Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of meeting 2006-06
held
Friday, September 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in room EV002.184

Present: N. Esmail (Chair) C. Lam
 S.T. Alkass L. Lopes
 A. Amid W.E. Lynch
 A. Athienitis B. Mackenzie
 R. Bhat J. Beaudoin
 T. Bui J. Opatrny
 A.A. Bulgak R. Paknys
 M. Debbabi C. Paradisis
 V. Devabhaktuni M. Paraschivoiu
 R. Dssouli M. Pugh
 J. Hakim (Secretary) T. Radhakrishnan
 D. Dysart-Gale A. Ramamurthy
 J.M. Edwards R. Sedaghati
 T. Fancott N. Shiri
 M.R. Hajioboli M.R. Soleymani
 K. Khan L. Stratakos
 P. Wood-Adams C. Trueman
 R. Zmeureanu

Observers: E. Katz

Regrets: L. Quesnel M. Mulrennan (sent J. Beaudoin)
 L. Zack

Guests: S. Belanger

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion:

2006-06-01 **That the Agenda be adopted** (*M.Pugh & C. Lam*)

Dr. Opatrny requested an addition to the agenda so that the recent elections could be discussed. The Chair agreed that the Council would devote time under "other business" to cover this item.

Vote: Carried Unanimously

2. **Adoption of the minutes of Meeting 2006-05**

Motion:

2006-06-02 **That the Minutes of Meeting 2006-05 (May 19, 2006) be adopted as submitted with a correction indicating that Mr. Bruce Mackenzie requested the Chair grant speaking privileges to A. Root and D. Carosielli (R. Dssouli & W.E. Lynch)**

Vote: Carried Unanimously

3. **Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. **Chairs Remarks**

The Chair reported that the Faculty was awarded 8 million dollars from Hydro Quebec in order to establish two industrial chairs, one in Electrical and Computer Engineering and one in the Department of Building Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Both chairs will be related to the efficiency of electrical use in buildings. The Chair has indicated that the Faculty will proceed to put a plan in place to advertise for two top notch researchers to fill these important chairs. The Chair congratulated the development office in securing the second largest gift to Concordia. The Chair also highlighted the important efforts of Mr. Norman Hebert Sr. and his son Norman Hebert Jr. who have been great friends to the Faculty and instrumental in these fund raising efforts.

The Chair also remarked that the enrollment figures are down and that serious attention and planning needs to be undertaken in order to reverse the trend. Various ideas were circulated on how to make the Faculty programs more attractive and on how to more effectively market our Faculty to students. It was agreed that a committee would need to be established where these ideas could be more thoroughly discussed and implemented.

5. **Major Undergraduate Curriculum Changes-Department of Building, Civil, and Environmental Engineering**

W.E. Lynch presented the document and it was agreed that the phrase "two sub disciplines of a civil engineering project" will be removed from page four of the document.

Motion:

2006-06-03 **That the changes outlined in ECFC 2006-06-01 be approved by Council (W.E. Lynch & S. T. Alkass)**

Vote: Carried Unanimously

6.

Faculty Council discussion regarding the proposed changes to the mandate of the academic programs committee and to the powers of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies (ECFC 2006-06-02)

T. Fancott presented document ECFC 2006-06-02 outlining the proposed changes to the mandate of the academic programs committee and to the powers of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies. It was agreed that there was a lack of clarity regarding item #5 on the page entitled "Powers of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies" whereby the wording indicates that the Council could establish university wide standards and procedures. The ENCS Faculty Council would like the wording changed so that it is consistent with the wording in item #2 (i.e. they could "consider, approve, and recommend to Senate the establishment of..."). This point was raised so that it is clear that the Council of the School of Graduate Studies would still need to make recommendations to Senate and not unilaterally decide the standards and procedures.

The ENCS Faculty Council also agreed that the same syntax and wording should be used for points #3,4,5, and 6 whereby the wording should clearly state that the Council would need to consider, approve, and recommend to Senate.

It was also mentioned that the APC should review and make recommendations but that it too does not establish rules, procedures, and policies.

It was agreed that the document is not appropriate in an academic community given that it does not factor in consultation with various peers. If the Council of the School of Graduate Studies has different powers than other Councils then there would be no safety valve that would ensure that potential problems get discussed at the Senate level. Therefore, the document does not reflect coherent collegial practices in an academic community.

It was agreed that the document would need to be revised so that the Council of the School of Graduate Studies should be of no more equal importance than other Councils.

The Chair indicated that he would like to hold a vote on these discussions to communicate that the ENCS Faculty Council would like the spirit of the document to be changed.

Therefore, the Council has voted on the following summary of changes to the document.

1. Item one: add a comment "Subject to the Following".
2. vi, delete "other than those listed hereunder"
3. 3,4,5,6 should have the same syntax ("consider, approve, and recommend")
4. add "the establishment of"
5. Number 7 will become number 3
6. Number 8 will become number 4

Motion:

2006-06-04

That the ENCS Faculty Council recommends that document ECFC 2006-06-02 be changed to reflect the changes discussed on September 22, 2006 (T. Fancott & R. Dssouli)

***Vote: 33 in favor
1 opposed***

Motion Carried.

7. **Election of Faculty Representative on the Faculty Elections Committee (Regular Member)**

Motion:

2006-06-05

**That the election of Dr. P. Wood-Adams as Regular Member on the Faculty Elections Committee for a period beginning September 22, 2006 and ending May 31, 2007 be ratified by Council.
(V. Devabhaktuni & R. Paknys)**

Vote: Carried Unanimously

8. **Election of Faculty Representative on the Faculty Elections Committee (Chair)**

Motion:

2006-06-06

**That the election of Dr. R. Paknys as Chair on the Faculty Elections Committee for a period beginning September 22, 2006 and ending May 31, 2007 be ratified by Council.
(V. Devabhaktuni & R. Paknys)**

Vote: Carried Unanimously

9.

Other business.

Dr. Opatrny raised the issue of the recent call for elections whereby there was an email sent by the Secretary of Council informing Faculty Members that they may fax in their ballots if that option would be more convenient for them.

Dr. Opatrny indicated that procedures have been put in place whereby a sealed ballot should only be used and that the elections committee should not recommend alternate measures. Dr. V. Devabhaktuni, an alternate member on the Elections Committee, indicated that no faxed ballots were received and that the spirit of such a suggestion was to ensure that participation in the elections process is high.

Dr. T. Radhakrishnan indicated that this may be the opportune time to brainstorm procedures that would allow for electronic voting while ensuring confidentiality. The Chair also indicated that this may be the ideal opportunity for a group of Computer Scientists to design an electronic ballot box that would satisfy all the requirements in the elections procedures while also ensuring confidentiality and integrity in the elections process.

It was agreed that for future elections, Faculty Members will be informed that they should only place their ballots in the ballot box or place the ballot in internal campus mail.

Meeting ended at 3:30 pm.